



EARLY CHILDHOOD CERTIFICATE

The early childhood teaching certificate is valid for teaching Early Childhood Education in the public schools of Rhode Island. Early Childhood encompasses preschool programs through grade two.

I. **Certificate of Eligibility for Employment (CEE)** – valid for three (3) years.

The initial certificate in Rhode Island for all areas of certification is a CEE. The CEE is used to seek regular employment in the public schools of Rhode Island for the field identified on the CEE. The CEE is also valid for service as a substitute teacher. If regular employment is not secured in the three (3) year period, the CEE can be renewed every three (3) years until regular employment is secured. To be issued a CEE in early childhood education an individual needs to satisfy all of the following:

- A. Bachelor's Degree from an accredited or an approved institution of higher education as defined in these regulations.
- B. Graduate of an approved program for the preparation of early childhood school teachers within the previous one year from the date of application. Applicants who have not completed an approved program can be certified by transcript analysis by presenting evidence of six (6) semester hours of student teaching in the early childhood grades and not less than twenty-four semester hours of course work to include work in each of the following areas; Child Growth and Development, Curriculum and Methods in Early Childhood Education, Reading Readiness and Developmental Reading, Health and Nutrition for the Young Child; Child, Family, and Community Relationships; and Identification of and Service to Special Needs Children. The student teaching requirement may be waived for an applicant who has had two or more documented years of successful teaching experience in an approved early childhood setting. Certified teachers who have had two or more years of teaching experience and who seek early childhood certification may fulfill the student teaching requirement by completing a one-year supervised internship at the early childhood level. After completing the necessary course work for the early childhood certificate, and arranging through the local community for a one-year internship, the Superintendent of Schools may request the issuance of a one-year professional certificate. The Department of Education must approve the internship in advance and the supervisor must have at least three (3) years of teaching experience. Upon successful completion of the internship, the individual will be issued a one (1) year professional transitional certificate.
- C. Applicants who have not been previously certified in the State of Rhode Island must achieve a score of 171 on the Education of Young Children (0021) and 169 on the Early Childhood Content Knowledge Test (0022). The Elementary Content Knowledge Test (0014) with a score of 145 and the Elementary Content Areas Exercises Test (0012) with a score of 148 also meet the test requirement for this area of certification.

II. **Professional transitional certificates** – valid for one year.

- A. The professional transitional certificates is issued to individuals who secure regular employment in the public schools of Rhode Island. Upon securing regular employment in Rhode Island, the CEE is used to request a one year professional transitional certificates. When applying for a one year professional transitional certificates the applicant must submit the CEE along with documentation

from the employing authority that regular employment has been secured in the certification area of the CEE.

- B. The professional transitional certificates may be renewed annually with the submission of a completed application and payment of the renewal fees.

Applicable to certificates expiring after August 31, 2010